

## UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

130 W Main Street  
Union, SC 29379

**GRADES** PK-12

**ENROLLMENT** 4,882 Students

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dr. Thomas White 864-429-1740

**BOARD CHAIR** Mrs. Jane Hammett 864-427-7081

**FISCAL AUTHORITY** District Board

## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

# 2003

#### ABSOLUTE RATING:

**GOOD**

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent

1

Good

5

Average

15

Below Average

1

Unsatisfactory

0

#### IMPROVEMENT RATING:

**EXCELLENT**

#### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

**N/A**

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

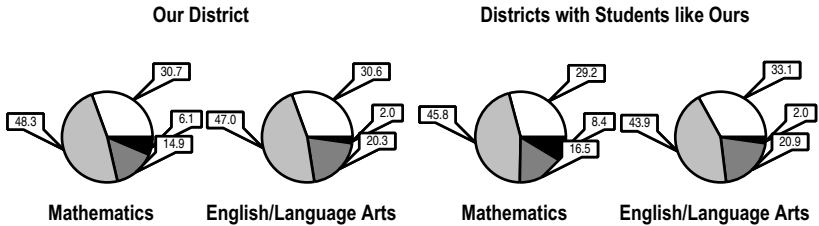
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:**

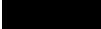



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**[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)**

**PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD**

	<b>Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Adequate Yearly Progress</b>
2001	Average	Average	N/A
2002	Average	Below Average	N/A
2003	Good	Excellent	N/A
2004			

**PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS****Definition of Critical Terms**

	<b>Advanced</b>	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	<b>Proficient</b>	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	<b>Basic</b>	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	<b>Below Basic</b>	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

**NOTE:** Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	<b>Our District</b>			<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>		
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Passed all 3 subtests</b>	72.1	66.3	62.2	65.9	62.6	64.8
<b>Passed 2 subtests</b>	16.1	15.4	19.8	17.3	19.2	17.6
<b>Passed 1 subtest</b>	7.4	12.8	8.5	10.4	11.5	10.0
<b>Passed no subtests</b>	4.3	5.5	8.8	6.5	6.7	7.1

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS**

<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Our District</b>	<b>Districts with Students Like Ours</b>
<b>Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*</b>	13.1	12.9
<b>Seniors who met the SAT requirement</b>	13.1	13.2
<b>Seniors who met the grade point average</b>	59.6	50.5

\*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP**

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
<b>English/Language Arts</b>								
All students	2,342	98.2	30.6	47.0	20.3	2.0	22.3	17.6
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	1,165	97.7	36.7	45.2	17.1	1.0	18.1	17.6
Female	1,175	98.7	24.7	48.7	23.6	3.0	26.6	17.6
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>								
White	1,391	98.2	24.0	46.5	26.4	3.0	29.5	17.6
African-American	934	98.2	40.8	47.5	11.3	0.5	11.8	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	100.0						17.6
Hispanic	8	100.0						17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						17.6
<b>Disability Status</b>								
Not disabled	1,848	98.9	25.8	47.1	24.7	2.4	27.1	17.6
Disabled	494	95.5	50.7	46.7	2.4	0.2	2.6	17.6
<b>Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	2,342	98.2	30.6	47.0	20.4	2.0	22.4	17.6
<b>English Proficiency</b>								
Limited English proficient		0.0						17.6
Non-limited English proficient	2,342	98.2	30.5	47.0	20.5	2.0	22.5	17.6
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>								
Subsidized meals	1,435	97.8	38.4	47.8	13.2	0.6	13.8	17.6
Full-pay meals	904	98.8	18.7	45.7	31.4	4.2	35.6	17.6

<b>Mathematics</b>								
All students	2,342	99.0	30.7	48.3	14.9	6.1	20.9	15.5
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	1,165	98.6	32.8	45.5	15.2	6.6	21.7	15.5
Female	1,175	99.4	28.4	51.3	14.7	5.6	20.3	15.5
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>								
White	1,391	98.9	21.6	49.7	19.7	8.9	28.6	15.5
African-American	934	99.1	43.9	46.8	7.5	1.7	9.2	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	100.0						15.5
Hispanic	8	100.0						15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	2	100.0						15.5
<b>Disability Status</b>								
Not disabled	1,848	99.5	25.4	49.6	17.6	7.4	25.1	15.5
Disabled	494	97.2	52.5	43.3	3.7	0.5	4.1	15.5
<b>Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant		0.0						15.5
Non-migrant	2,342	99.0	30.6	48.4	14.9	6.1	21.0	15.5
<b>English Proficiency</b>								
Limited English proficient		0.0						15.5
Non-limited English proficient	2,342	99.0	30.6	48.3	15.0	6.1	21.1	15.5
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>								
Subsidized meals	1,435	98.9	39.5	48.3	9.6	2.6	12.1	15.5
Full-pay meals	904	99.2	16.9	48.5	23.1	11.5	34.6	15.5

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

N/A Not Applicable

N/C Not Collected

N/R Not Reported

I/S Insufficient Sample

**PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL**

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	364		21.4	47.6	29.0	31.0
	Grade 4	360		18.7	54.3	25.9	27.0
	Grade 5	385		26.8	54.9	17.3	18.4
	Grade 6	360		29.8	44.1	21.8	26.1
	Grade 7	417		32.6	48.0	18.2	19.4
	Grade 8	402		40.7	40.2	16.9	19.0
2003	Grade 3	395	100.0	18.5	44.7	32.3	4.5
	Grade 4	373	99.5	23.1	52.3	23.7	0.9
	Grade 5	365	99.5	35.9	49.3	14.8	
	Grade 6	406	98.3	29.1	44.2	20.9	5.8
	Grade 7	393	96.7	41.4	43.1	15.0	0.6
	Grade 8	410	95.6	36.6	48.9	14.5	

Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	364		26.8	46.5	18.0	8.7
	Grade 4	360		26.5	45.0	19.3	9.2
	Grade 5	385		44.2	40.3	11.0	4.5
	Grade 6	360		41.1	41.7	12.1	5.2
	Grade 7	417		51.6	30.2	11.3	6.9
	Grade 8	402		51.7	38.6	7.3	2.4
2003	Grade 3	395	100.0	18.8	54.8	20.4	6.1
	Grade 4	373	100.0	17.3	52.3	19.3	11.1
	Grade 5	365	99.2	31.1	55.4	12.6	0.9
	Grade 6	406	98.3	34.1	40.4	16.5	8.9
	Grade 7	393	98.5	42.5	40.6	10.2	6.6
	Grade 8	410	98.3	40.1	47.1	10.2	2.7

**STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS**

**Terra Nova:** a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

\* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress:** a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percent of students scoring									
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45

**PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS**

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>All Students</b>	296	97.6%	245	13.1%	291	75.6%
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	150	97.3%	131	12.2%	153	74.5%
Female	145	97.9%	114	14.0%	138	76.8%
<b>Race or Ethnic Group</b>						
African American	112	96.4%	100	2.0%	120	71.7%
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	1	I/S
White	181	98.3%	144	20.1%	168	78.6%
Other	2	I/S	1	I/S	2	I/S
<b>Disability Status</b>						
Non-speech disabilities	2	I/S	7	0.0%	19	10.5%
Students without disabilities	293	98.0%	238	13.4%	0	80.1%
<b>Migrant Status</b>						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	8	100.0%	245	13.1%	0	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>						
Limited English proficient	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-LEP	290	97.6%	245	13.1%	291	75.6%
<b>Lunch Status</b>						
Subsidized meals	130	96.2%	88	3.4%	125	64.8%
Full-pay meals	160	99.4%	157	18.5%	166	83.7%

\* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

**2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS**

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	449	437	452	455	901	892
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	17.9	17.9	18.5	18.2	19.2	18.5	19.0	18.4	18.8	18.3
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

**SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"**

**DISTRICT PROFILE**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>Students (n= 4,882)</b>				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	0.1%	Down from 5.4%	4.2%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.7%	Up from 95.5%	95.5%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	13.7%	Up from 12.6%	10.8%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	13.9%	Up from 12.8%	11.1%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	3.8%	Down from 3.9%	5.2%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	0.1%	Down from 0.9%	1.3%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	12.7%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	105	Down from 419	157	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	74	Up from 48	58	40

<b>Teachers (n= 380)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	58.2%	Up from 56.6%	44.4%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	88.7%	Up from 86.8%	85.0%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	92.2%	Up from 91.6%	88.9%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	94.0%	Down from 95.2%	95.1%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$39,885	Down 0.5%	\$39,542	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	11.6 days	Down from 14.1 days	11.3 days	11.3 days

<b>District</b>				
Superintendent's years at district	0.5	Up from 0.0	2.8	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	18.4 to 1	Up from 15.2 to 1	20.1 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.8%	Down from 89.3%	89.2%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,435	Up 3.2%	\$7,404	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	58.7%	Up from 57.9%	56.8%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	95.9%	Up from 93.9%	96.8%	96.1%
Number of schools	9	No change	11	8
Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	10.6%	Down from 11.5%	2.3%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	36	N/A	24	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	2	N/A	10	8

\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

<b>N/A</b> Not Applicable	<b>N/C</b> Not Collected	<b>N/R</b> Not Reported	<b>I/S</b> Insufficient Sample
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE****Board Membership**

9 trustees elected to single-member seats

**Fiscal Authority**

District Board

**Average Number of Hours of Training Annually** 15.0 per board member**Percent new trustees completing orientation** N/A**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Our students, teachers, and schools continued to see successes last year. The joint efforts of our schools and community resulted in successful graduates who enrolled in prestigious universities and technical colleges and received outstanding scholarships such as Palmetto Fellows, Academic Scholarships and Athletic scholarships. One received recognition as a National Merit Scholar. Scholarship monies were estimated to far exceed \$1.5 million. Other graduates joined military services or used skills gained in career classes to enter the workforce directly from high school.

State level recognition for schools included Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards for test scores, School Board Association's Saluting Students' Success Award and a nomination for National Blue Ribbon School. Students and teachers enjoyed state-level recognition in Academics, Career and Vocational Activities, Visual and Performing Arts, Service Activities, and Athletics. Many organizations and teams were in state and national competition, and the UHS football team won yet another state championship.

All of this, and more, was accomplished in a year of unprecedented challenges. Drastic mid-year cuts in state funding totaled almost \$2.0 million! The Board minimized impact on the classroom, but loss of state funding hurt our children's education. The Board demonstrated tremendous leadership and made tough decisions in support of children. Union County is fortunate to have dedicated individuals who work to make sure our district is meeting students' needs.

Our District still faces many challenges. With fewer teaching materials, larger classes, unmet building needs, and state funding levels of the 1970s (adjusted for inflation), educators must meet Federal "No Child Left Behind" and State "Accountability" standards for 2004 and beyond. Nonetheless, we strive toward our goals and intend to continue doing so into the future. Test scores are important, but test scores do not completely define a child or a school. Teachers work hard with children using proven methods of achievement in academics, visual and performing arts, service activities, and athletics. I am confident of success if all teachers, students, parents, administrators, political leaders, and community members continue to work as a team.

Sincerely,  
Thomas White, Superintendent

**DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS**

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal